

# Stages of Social Play



Children learn from their environment by watching, listening and doing. They learn best through play.

**1.**

## Solitary Period

0 – 2 years

This is when children play on their own. They still need their parent to follow their lead in play and respond by talking to or describing the toy/activity and enjoying them.



**2.**

## Onlooker Period

2 – 3 years

This is when children watch other children playing but don't join in.



**3.**

## Parallel Play

2 – 3 years

This is when children play next to each other, playing with the same or different things.



**4.**

## Cooperative Play

3 – 5 years

This is when children play together, sharing a common goal. Sometimes play can continue over multiple play times.

